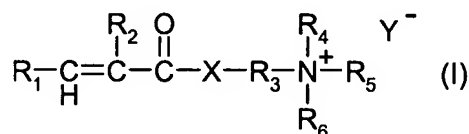


## WE CLAIM Claims

1. (currently amended): A fabric softener composition comprising  
a fabric softener component or a mixture of fabric softener components and  
at least one polymer formed from the polymerisation of
  - a) a water soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer or blend of monomers comprising at least one cationic monomer and/or at least one non-ionic monomer,
  - b) optionally at least one cross-linking agent in an amount of less than 5 ppm by the weight of component a) and
  - c) optionally at least one chain transfer agent,with the proviso that
  - (i) if the polymer is a cationic homopolymer then the amount of the crosslinking agent is always more than 0 ppm.
2. (original): Aqueous compositions according to claim 1 wherein the polymer has a size of more than 10 $\mu$ m.
3. (cancelled).
4. (original): Aqueous compositions according to claim 1 wherein the polymer has a size of from 100 $\mu$ m and up to 1000 $\mu$ m.
5. (currently amended): Fabric softener composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the polymer is added to the compositions in solid or liquid form.
6. (currently amended): Fabric softener composition according to claim 1 ~~to 4~~ wherein the polymer is added to the compositions in the form of beads.
7. (currently amended): Fabric softener composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the polymer is a cationic homopolymer.
8. (currently amended): Fabric softener composition according to ~~Claims 1-4~~ claim 1, wherein the polymer is a non-ionic homopolymer.

9. (currently amended): Fabric softener composition according to claim 1 ~~[[ – 6]]~~, wherein component a) comprises 5 to 95 wt-%, ~~preferably 30 to 95 wt-%~~ of at least one cationic monomer and 5 – 95 wt-%, ~~preferably 5 – 70 wt-%~~ of at least one non-ionic monomer, based on the total weight of the copolymer.
10. (currently amended): Fabric softener composition according to claim 1 ~~[[ – 6]]~~, wherein component a) comprises 35 to 95 wt-% of at least one cationic monomer and 5 – 65 wt-% of at least one non-ionic monomer, based on the total weight of the polymer.
11. (currently amended): Fabric softener composition according to ~~any one of Claims 1 – 7, 9 and 10~~ claim 1, wherein the cationic monomers are diallyl dialkyl ammonium halides or compounds according to formula (I)



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R<sub>2</sub> signifies hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl,

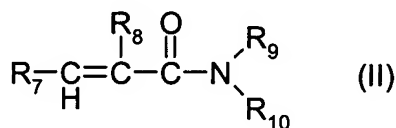
R<sub>3</sub> signifies C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkylene,

R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> signify independently from each other hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl,

X signifies –O– or –NH– and

Y signifies Cl; Br; I; hydrogensulphate or methosulfate.

12. (currently amended): Fabric softener composition according to ~~any one of Claims 1 – 6 and 8~~ 40 claim 1, wherein the non-ionic monomers are N-vinyl pyrrolidone or compounds of formula (II)



wherein

R<sub>7</sub> signifies hydrogen or methyl,

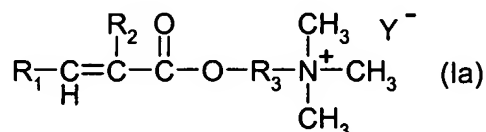
R<sub>8</sub> signifies hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, and

R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> signify independently from each other hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl.

13. (currently amended): Fabric softener composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent(s) of component b) is ~~(are)~~ selected from the group consisting of divinyl benzene; tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl acrylates and methacrylates; diacrylates and dimethacrylates of glycols and polyglycols; butadiene; 1,7-octadiene; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid; N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide and polyol polyallylethers, ~~such as polyallylsaccharose and pentaerythritol triallylether.~~
14. (currently amended): Fabric softener composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent(s) of component b) is ~~(are)~~ selected from the group consisting of tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid and N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide.
15. (currently amended): Fabric softener composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the chain transfer agent(s) c) is (are) selected from ~~mercaptanes~~ mercaptans; malic acid, lactic acid; formic acid; isopropanol and hypophosphites.
16. (currently amended): Fabric softener composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the chain transfer agent(s) c) is ~~(are)~~ present in a range of from 0 to 1000 ppm [(I)] ~~based on the component a).~~
17. (currently amended): Fabric softener composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the compositions comprise 0.005 to 15 % by weight of the polymer.
18. (currently amended): Fabric softener ~~component~~ composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the fabric softener components are selected from cationic quaternary ammonium salts, tertiary fatty amines having at least one C<sub>8</sub> to C<sub>30</sub> alkyl chains, carboxylic acids having 8 to 30 carbons atoms and one carboxylic group per molecule, esters of polyhydric alcohols, fatty alcohols, ethoxylated fatty alcohols, ~~alkylphenols~~ alkylphenols, ethoxylated ~~alkylphenols~~ alkylphenols, ethoxylated fatty amines, ethoxylated monoglycerides, ethoxylated diglycerides, mineral oils and polyols.
19. (currently amended): A liquid fabric softener composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 comprising:

- A) 0.5 to 50 wt-%, ~~preferably 2 to 50 wt-%~~, based on the total weight of the composition, of the fabric softener;
- B) 0.001 to 15 wt-%, ~~preferably 0.01 to 10 wt-%~~, based on the total weight of the composition, of at least one homo- and/or copolymer formed from the polymerisation of

a) at least one monomer of formula (Ia)



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R<sub>2</sub> signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R<sub>3</sub> signifies C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>alkylene and

Y signifies Cl; Br or I, and

- b) at least one cross-linking agent selected from divinyl benzene; tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl acrylates and methacrylates; diacrylates and dimethacrylates of glycols and polyglycols; butadiene; 1,7-octadiene; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid; N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide and polyol polyallylethers in an amount of more than 0 ppm and less than 5 ppm ~~[(I)]~~ based on the component a), and
- c) optionally at least one chain transfer agent selected from ~~mercaptanes~~ mercaptans; malic acid; lactic acid; formic acid; isopropanol and hypophosphites in an amount of 0 – 1000 ppm, ~~preferably 0 – 500 ppm, more preferably 0 – 300 ppm~~ (based on the component a) with the ~~provisio~~ proviso that if the polymer is a homopolymer, then the amount of the crosslinking agent is always more than 0 ppm;
- C) 0 to 20 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of customary additives; and
- D) 0 to 5 wt-%, ~~preferably 0 to 3 wt-%, more preferably 0 to 2 wt-%~~, based in the total weight of the composition, of a perfume;
- E) 0 to 0.5 wt-%, ~~preferably 0.005 to 0.25 wt-%, more preferably 0.01 to 0.1 wt-%~~, based in the total weight of the composition, a component capable of sequestering metal ions and selected from the group consisting of:
- i) chelating components selected from the group consisting of amino carboxylic acids, organo aminophosphonic acid components, and mixtures thereof,

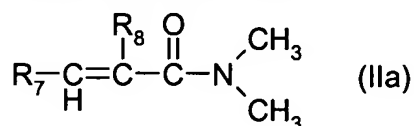
- ii) polycarboxylic building components, other than those defined under i) as chelating components, comprising at least two carboxylic radicals separated from each other by not more than two carbon atoms, and,
- iii) mixtures thereof; and

F) water to 100 %.

20. (currently amended): A liquid fabric softener composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-18~~ claim 1 comprising:

- A) 0.5 to 50 wt-%, ~~preferably 2 to 50 wt-%~~, based on the total weight of the composition, of the fabric softener component or components;
- B) 0.001 to 15 wt-%, ~~preferably 0.01 to 10 wt-%~~, based on the total weight of the composition, of at least one homo- and/or copolymer formed from the polymerisation of

- a) at least one monomer of formula (IIa)



wherein

R<sub>7</sub> signifies hydrogen or methyl, and

R<sub>8</sub> signifies hydrogen; methyl or ethyl,

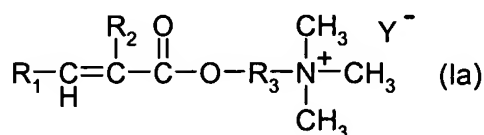
- b) optionally at least one cross-linking agent selected from divinyl benzene; tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl acrylates and methacrylates; diacrylates and dimethacrylates of glycols and polyglycols; butadiene; 1,7-octadiene; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid; N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide and polyol polyallylethers in an amount of less than 5 ppm ~~II(II)~~ based on the component a), and
- c) optionally at least one chain transfer agent selected from ~~mercaptanes~~ mercaptans; malic acid; lactic acid; formic acid; isopropanol and hypophosphites in an amount of 0 – 1000 ppm, ~~preferably 0 – 500 ppm, more preferably 0 – 300 ppm~~ (based on the component a);
- C) 0 to 20 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of customary additives;
- D) 0 to 5 wt-%, ~~preferably 0 to 3 wt-%, more preferably 0 to 2 wt-%~~, based in the total weight of the composition, of a perfume;
- E) 0 to 0.5 wt-%, ~~preferably 0.005 to 0.25 wt-%, more preferably 0.01 to 0.1 wt-%~~, based in the total weight of the composition, a component capable of sequestering metal ions and selected from the group consisting of:

- i) chelating components selected from the group consisting of amino carboxylic acids, organo aminophosphonic acid components, and mixtures thereof,
- ii) polycarboxylic building components, other than those defined under i) as chelating components, comprising at least two carboxylic radicals separated from each other by not more than two carbon atoms, and,
- iii) mixtures thereof; and

F) water to 100 %.

21. (currently amended): A liquid fabric softener composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-18~~ claim 1 comprising:

- A) 0.5 to 50 wt-%, ~~preferably 2 to 50 wt-%~~, based on the total weight of the composition, of the fabric softener;
- B) 0.001 to 15 wt-%, ~~preferably 0.01 to 10 wt-%~~, based on the total weight of the composition, of at least one copolymer formed from the polymerisation of
  - a) 5 – 95 wt-%, ~~preferably 30 – 95 wt-%~~, based on the on the total weight of the copolymer, of at least one monomer of formula (Ia)



wherein

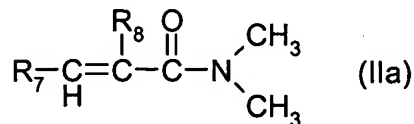
R<sub>1</sub> signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R<sub>2</sub> signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R<sub>3</sub> signifies C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>alkylene and

Y signifies Cl; Br or I, and

- b) 5 – 95 wt-%, ~~preferably 5 – 70 wt-%~~, based on the total weight of the copolymer, of at least one monomer of formula (IIa)



wherein

R<sub>7</sub> signifies is hydrogen or methyl, and

R<sub>8</sub> signifies hydrogen; methyl or ethyl,

- c) optionally a cross-linking agent or a mixture of cross-linking agents selected from divinyl benzene; tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl acrylates and methacrylates; diacrylates and

- dimethacrylates of glycols and polyglycols; butadiene; 1,7-octadiene; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid; N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide and polyol polyallylethers in an amount of less than 5 ppm ~~[[1]]~~based on the component a), and
- d) optionally at least one chain transfer agent selected from ~~mercaptanes~~ mercaptans; malic acid; lactic acid; formic acid; isopropanol and hypophosphites in an amount of 0 – 1000 ppm, ~~preferably 0 – 500 ppm, more preferably 0 – 300 ppm~~ (based on the component a);
- C) 0 to 20 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of customary additives; and
- D) 0 to 5 wt-%, ~~preferably 0 to 3 wt-%, more preferably 0 to 2 wt-%~~, based in the total weight of the composition, of a perfume;
- E) 0 to 0.5 wt-%, ~~preferably 0.005 to 0.25 wt-%, more preferably 0.01 to 0.1 wt-%~~, based in the total weight of the composition, a component capable of sequestering metal ions and selected from the group consisting of:
- i) chelating components selected from the group consisting of amino carboxylic acids, organo aminophosphonic acid components, and mixtures thereof,
  - ii) polycarboxylic building components, other than those defined under i) as chelating components, comprising at least two carboxylic radicals separated from each other by not more than two carbon atoms, and,
  - iii) mixtures thereof; and
- F) water to 100 %.

22. (cancelled).